

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A communications method for transferring electronic data to users of a communications system, the method comprising:

establishing a connection between a client and a host, the client including a browser application configured to render data written in Hyper-Text Markup Language (HTML) encapsulated in a standard Internet content format;

receiving electronic data from the host in response to a data request transmitted from the client; and

at the client, simultaneously executing multiple openings/instantiations of the browser application in response to the electronic data received from the host by simultaneously launching the browser application multiple times,

wherein at least one opening/instantiation of the browser application is configured to exchange messages with at least one other opening/instantiation of the browser application, the messages being exchanged through a communications pathway between the at least one opening of the browser application and the at least one other opening of the browser application, the communications pathway being established and located entirely at the client, and

wherein each of the multiple openings of the browser application is configured to render data written in HTML.

2. (Currently Amended) The communications method of claim 1 further comprising rendering a first graphical user interface within a first opening/instantiation of the browser and

rendering a second graphical user interface within ~~[[in]]~~ a second opening~~instantiation~~ of the browser.

3. (Currently Amended) The communication method of claim 1 further comprising establishing the~~[[a]]~~ communication pathway between multiple openings~~instantiations~~ of the browser application by executing coordinating code in each opening~~instantiation~~ of the browser.

4. (Original) The communications method of claim 3 wherein the coordinating code is written in a standard Internet content format.

5. (Currently Amended) The communications method of claim 1 further comprising establishing a communications session in a first opening~~instantiation~~ of the browser.

6. (Currently Amended) The communications method of claim 5 further comprising controlling the communications session in the first opening~~instantiation~~ of the browser.

7. (Currently Amended) The communications method of claim 5 further comprising displaying content associated with the session in a second opening~~instantiation~~ of the browser application.

8. (Original) The communications method of claim 1 wherein the data request is transmitted using an OSP client application.

9. (Original) The communications method of claim 1 wherein the data request is transmitted using the browser application.

10. (Original) The communications method of claim 1 wherein the browser application is embedded within an OSP client application.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The communications method of claim 1 wherein a first ~~opening~~~~instantiation~~ of the browser comprises a welcome screen.

13. (Currently Amended) The communications method of claim 1 wherein a first ~~opening~~~~instantiation~~ of the browser comprises a toolbar.

14. (Currently Amended) The communications method of claim 1 wherein a first ~~opening~~~~instantiation~~ of the browser comprises an electronic mail window.

15. (Currently Amended) The communications method of claim 1 wherein a first ~~opening~~~~instantiation~~ of the browser comprises an instant messaging window.

16. (Currently Amended) The communications method of claim 1 wherein a first ~~opening~~~~instantiation~~ of the browser comprises a search window.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer program for transferring electronic data to users of a communications system, the computer program being stored on a tangible computer readable medium and comprising instructions for:

establishing a connection between a client and a host, the client including a browser application configured to render data written in HTML~~encapsulated in a standard Internet content format~~;

receiving electronic data from the host in response to a data request transmitted from the client; and

at the client, simultaneously executing multiple ~~openings~~~~instantiations~~ of the browser application in response to the electronic data received from the host by simultaneously launching the browser application multiple times,

wherein at least one ~~opening~~~~instantiation~~ of the browser application is configured to exchange messages with at least one other ~~opening~~~~instantiation~~ of the browser application, the messages being exchanged through a communications pathway between the at least one opening of the browser application and the at least one other opening of the browser application, the communications pathway being established at the client and located entirely at the client, and

wherein each of the multiple openings of the browser application is configured to render data written in HTML.

18. (Original) The computer program of claim 17 wherein the computer readable medium comprises a disc.

19. (Original) The computer program of claim 17 wherein the computer readable medium comprises a client device.

20. (Original) The computer program of claim 17 wherein the computer readable medium comprises a host device.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) A communications apparatus for transferring electronic data to users of a communications system, the apparatus being configured to:

establish a connection between a client and a host, the client including a browser application configured to render data written in HTML~~encapsulated in a standard Internet content format;~~

receive electronic data from the host in response to a data request transmitted from the client; and

at the client, simultaneously execute multiple openingsinstantiations of the browser application in response to the electronic data received from the host by simultaneously launching the browser application multiple times,

wherein at least one openinginstantiation of the browser application is configured to exchange messages with at least one other openinginstantiation of the browser application, the messages being exchanged through a communications pathway between the at least one opening of the browser application and the at least one other opening of the browser application, the communications pathway being established at the client and located entirely at the client, and

wherein each of the multiple openings of the browser application is configured to render data written in HTML.

23. (Currently Amended) A communications method for transferring electronic data to users of a communications system, the method comprising:

establishing a connection between a client and a host, the client including a browser application configured to render data written in HTML~~encapsulated in a standard Internet content format~~; and

transmitting electronic data from the host in response to a data request received from the client,

wherein the electronic data comprises instructions for simultaneously executing multiple openingsinstantiations of the browser application by simultaneously launching the browser application multiple times, at least one openinginstantiation of the browser application being configured to exchange messages with at least one other openinginstantiation of the browser application, the messages being exchanged through a communications pathway between the at least one opening of the browser application and the at least one other opening of the browser application, the communications pathway being established at the client and located entirely at the client, and

wherein each of the multiple openings of the browser application is configured to render data written in HTML.

24. (Currently Amended) The communications method of claim 1 wherein each ~~openinginstantiation~~ of the browser application is configured to exchange messages with at least one other ~~openinginstantiation~~ of the browser application.

25. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 17 wherein each ~~openinginstantiation~~ of the browser application is configured to exchange messages with at least one other ~~openinginstantiation~~ of the browser application.

26. (Currently Amended) The communications method of claim 1 wherein the messages exchanged between ~~openingsinstantiations~~ of the browser application include state information.

27. (Currently Amended) The communications method of claim 1 wherein the messages exchanged between ~~openingsinstantiations~~ of the browser application include session content.

28. (Currently Amended) The communications method of claim 1 wherein the messages exchanged between ~~openingsinstantiations~~ of the browser application include communications parameters for maintaining a connection between ~~openingsinstantiations~~ of the browser application.

29. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 17 wherein the messages exchanged between ~~openingsinstantiations~~ of the browser application include state information.

30. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 17 wherein the messages exchanged between ~~openingsinstantiations~~ of the browser application include session content.

31. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 17 wherein the messages exchanged between ~~openings~~instantiations of the browser application include communications parameters for maintaining a connection between ~~openings~~instantiations of the browser application.

32. (Currently Amended) The computer method of claim 1 wherein a first ~~opening~~instantiation of the browser application is dedicated to providing a first type of online service and at least one other ~~opening~~instantiation of the browser application is dedicated to providing a second and different type of online service.

33. (Previously Presented) The computer method of claim 32 wherein the first type of online service is an OSP service and the second type of online service is an instant messaging service.

34. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 17 wherein a first ~~opening~~instantiation of the browser application is dedicated to providing a first online service and at least one other ~~opening~~instantiation of the browser application is dedicated to providing a second and different online service.

35. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 34 wherein the first online service is an OSP service and the second online service is an instant messaging service.

36. (Currently Amended) The computer method of claim 1 wherein a first ~~opening~~instantiation of the browser application is configured to receive content from a second ~~opening~~instantiation of the browser application, said content being stored on a server that is not otherwise configured to communicate with the first ~~opening~~instantiation of the browser application.

37. (Currently Amended) The computer method of claim 36 wherein the first ~~openinginstantiation~~ of the browser application is configured for email, the second ~~openinginstantiation~~ of the browser application is configured for instant messaging, and the server is an instant messaging server.

38. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 17 wherein a first ~~openinginstantiation~~ of the browser application is configured to receive content from a second ~~openinginstantiation~~ of the browser application, said content being stored on a server that is not otherwise configured to communicate with the first ~~openinginstantiation~~ of the browser application.

39. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 38 wherein the first ~~openinginstantiation~~ of the browser application is configured for email, the second ~~openinginstantiation~~ of the browser application is configured for instant messaging, and the server is an instant messaging server.

40. (Currently Amended) The communications method of claim 1, further comprising the at least one ~~openinginstantiation~~ of the browser application:
receiving content request messages from the at least one other ~~openinginstantiation~~ of the browser application, and
communicating the content request messages to the host.

41. (Currently Amended) The communications method of claim 40, further comprising the at least one ~~openinginstantiation~~ of the browser application:
receiving content from the host in response to the content request messages, and
delivering the content to the respective other ~~openingsinstantiations~~ of the browser application that sent the content request messages.

42-47. (Canceled)

48. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein executing multiple ~~openingsinstantiations~~ comprises executing multiple multi-windowed browser application ~~openingsinstantiations~~.

49. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein executing multiple ~~openingsinstantiations~~ comprises executing multiple single-windowed browser application ~~openingsinstantiations~~.

50. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 17, wherein the instructions for executing multiple ~~openingsinstantiations~~ comprises instructions for executing multiple multi-windowed browser application ~~openingsinstantiations~~.

51. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 17, wherein the instructions for executing multiple ~~openingsinstantiations~~ comprises instructions for executing multiple single-windowed browser application ~~openingsinstantiations~~.

52. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein executing multiple ~~openingsinstantiations~~ comprises executing multiple multi-windowed browser application ~~openingsinstantiations~~.

53. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein executing multiple ~~openingsinstantiations~~ comprises executing multiple single-windowed browser application ~~openingsinstantiations~~.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the electronic data comprises instructions for executing multiple multi-windowed browser application openingsinstantiations.

55. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the electronic data comprises instructions for executing multiple single-windowed browser application openingsinstantiations.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the messages include data received from the host.

57. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 17, wherein the messages include data received from the host.

58. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the messages include data received from the host.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the messages include data received from the host.

60-63. (Canceled)

64. (New) A communications method for transferring electronic data to users of a communications system, the method comprising:

establishing a connection between a client and a host, the client including a browser application configured to render data in Hypter-Text Markup Language (HTML) format;

receiving electronic data from the host in response to a data request transmitted from the client;

at the client, executing a first opening of the browser application in response to the electronic data received from the host by launching the browser application a first time;
rendering a first HTML document using the first opening of the browser application;
at the client, executing, using the first opening of the browser application, a second opening of the browser application by launching the browser application a second time;
rendering a second HTML document using the second opening of the browser application;
directly communicating, at the client and by the first opening of the browser application, a message to the second opening of the browser application; and
rendering a third HTML document using the second opening of the browser application in response to the message and subsequent to the rendering of the second HTML document.

65. (New) The method of claim 64, wherein rendering the second HTML document using the second opening of the browser application comprises rendering an instant messaging window as an HTML document using the second opening of the browser application.

66. (New) The method of claim 65, wherein:
the message communicated to the second opening of the browser application includes instant message text, and
rendering the third HTML document using the second opening of the browser application comprises rendering the instant message window including the instant message text as an HTML document using the second opening of the browser application.